REMARKS

1. A proposed new set of formal drawings is appended hereto. Heat sensitive element 13 has been added to Figs. 1 and 2 to address the Examiner's objections related to claim 2.

2. Claim 8 has been amended to address the antecedent basis rejection under §112.

3. Claims 2-10 stand rejected under the first paragraph of §112. Applicant traverses.

Applicant submits that gas thermostats and their function were well known to one skilled in the art at the time of filing of this application. A detailed disclosure of a gas thermostat is therefore not necessary in order to provide enablement of the invention, inasmuch as the gas thermostat is one of the known features of the combination of the claimed invention.

Following are some examples in the prior art indicating that gas thermostats are indeed known to those skilled in the art:

(A) GB 2,283,078 A, "Gas Thermostat", published on April 26, 1995. This reference discloses a gas thermostat with a valve and an expansion heat-sensitive element controlling the valve through a lever (see the abstract and Figures). A gas thermostat "of the type which comprises a valve and a heat-sensitive element which controls said valve" is considered well known (see Page 1, paragraphs 1 and 2).

(B) GB 935,248 A, "Thermostatic Gas Valve", published on August 28, 1963. Gas thermostats are also described as being well known in this reference, as indicated by the following passage: ("the present invention also provides a thermostatic gas valve of the type including a rotatable gas flow controlling control element and a thermostatically

actuated valve controlling the flow in series with the element", see Page 1, lines 33 to 38). The reference discloses a gas thermostat ("thermostatically actuated control means 22", see Page 3, lines 8 to 11) and a temperature sensing unit. "The sensing element is connected as through a capillary tube 38 to an axially expansible actuating or power element 40 forming part of the thermostatic control means 22" (see Page 3, lines 39 to 43 and Figure 4).

(C) E 2417609 A1, "Gas Thermostat with Two Regulating Ranges Has a Single Sensor Element and Two Regulating Valves for Two Burners" (Derwent title), published on February 13, 1975. This reference discloses a gas thermostat with a sensing element 15 (see Figure 1).

Applicant suggests that the function of the gas thermostat and the temperature sensing element would be well known to those skilled in the art.

4. Claims 1-12 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 1 in an effort to clarify the language of the claim.

5. Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by Cacciatore. Applicant traverses.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the restrictions of claim 2, the use of a gas thermostat in the gas flow regulating means. Cacciatore does not appear to disclose a gas flow regulating means comprising a gas thermostat that regulates the gas outflow to the burner in accordance with the temperature in the oven and a selected temperature.

The safety and control systems for gas ovens disclosed in the prior art, including the Cacciatore and the JP55-3576 systems, are "all or nothing" regulating systems. This means that, in order to maintain the oven around a selected temperature, the electronic

controller acts on a gas valve to close the flow of gas and shut down the burner when the temperature in the oven exceeds the selected temperature. The system re-ignites the burner when the dete4cted temperature goes below the selected temperature (see paragraph [0029] and Fig. 3 of Cacciatore).

The Cacciatore system comprises a solenoid valve 16, which is open and closed by a microprocessor 12. A solenoid valve is an electrically operated valve giving either no flow or full flow. The Cacciatore system does include a temperature sensing means 24 for sensing oven temperature and providing a temperature signal to the microprocessor 12 (see col. 2, lines 36 to 40, and Figure 1). The microprocessor 12 receives the signal and controls the temperature in the oven by means of the solenoid valve 16 and a spark voltage supply 20 (see Figure 1). In order to accomplish this control, the microprocessor 12 has to close the solenoid valve 16 and shut down the oven burner 14 when the temperature in the oven exceeds a selected temperature. In addition, the Cacciatore system has to open said solenoid valve 16 and generate sparks with the spark voltage supply 20 for re-igniting the oven burner 14 when the temperature in the oven goes below the selected temperature. This method of operation is not equivalent to that defined in amended claim 1.

In the safety and control system of the present invention, the electronic controller "does not close the gas valve each time that the temperature in the oven is greater than the selected temperature, and does not open the gas valve and act on the ignition module each time that the temperature in the oven is below the selected temperature." This is due to the fact that the temperature is regulated by the gas thermostat.

Cacciatore does not disclose a gas flow regulating means comprising a gas thermostat. As such, Cacciatore cannot be said to anticipate present claim 1. Similarly, the cited prior art does not indicate in any way the use of a device as is defined in present claim 1. Accordingly, the cited prior art cannot be said to render obvious present claim 1. All other present claims depend from claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of any current rejections or objections, and solicits allowance of the present claims at an early date.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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